

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, August 23. 1707.

WE are now, and very justly too, with our Eyes all fix'd on the Siege of *Thoulon*; different Judgments vary, our Discourses upon the Success of this Enterprize; some will have it carried immediately, by the irresistible force of Prince *Eugene's* good Fortune; others say, it is a very difficult, hazardous, and doubtful Enterprize — And no doubt if it should miscarry, will call in question the Prudentials and Politicks of the Duke of *Savoy*, and the *Imperial* Generals.

I cannot let all these things pass without some Observation, which unless the Town happen to be taken, and the good News reach the Town before this Paper comes to Light, may, I hope, not be unseasonable; GOD Grant that good News may come by the next Post, and this Paper be laugh'd at for a false Prophet.

We have by the several Accounts, brought, both from Friends and Enemies, a long and particular Account, not very differing neither from one another, of the Preparations made by both Sides, both to Attack and Defend this Town, and from both it is no irregular Conjecture to say, both Sides will exert their utmost Skill, Fury, and Force, and they that think it will be carried at once, by the Terror of the very Name of the *Imperial* Generals, will, I am afraid, find themselves mistaken.

To begin with the Town — The ordinary Fortifications are Repair'd, and put into as good a Posture, as the time they have had would permit; the Lines round the Town are Pallisado'd, and a new cover'd way Finish'd; an unusual number of Cannon are mounted, and Batteries in every proper Place erected, and nothing omitted

ted, that may contribute to making the Place defensible.

To the Sea-ward, innumerable Forts, Batteries, Intrenchments, Chains, Boombs, sunk Vessels, and every possible contrivance concur to make it Invincible, to make the entrance into the Bay Impracticable, and abiding there Intollerable; and we may not be asham'd to hear our Admirals own the Moles and Docks inaccessible that way.

To furnish this Town, and all the Batteries, Forts, and Lines with Paper Defence, they tell us, that from the Mouth of the Bay to the Out-works of the Town, there are above 2000 pieces of Cannon mounted, and about 70 Mortars—That there are in the Town 5000 Men of the Regular Troops, 1000 Voluntiers of the Navy, being all Officers, Reformades, and Gentlemen, 1800 Soldiers, Marines, 4000 Seamen, 700 Gunners, Bombardiers and Fire-men—That the Towns-Men are numerous and hearty, and that all the Women and Children are sent away.

Besides this, the Marshal *Tbesse* has form'd an Impregnable Camp without the Works, in a Place inaccessible but in its Front, which Front is cover'd with a double Intrenchment, and so lin'd with Cannon, and flank'd with Batteries, that 700 pieces of Cannon are employ'd in its Defence, and in this Camp are 34 Battalions of Foot placed, Commanded by the most Experienc'd Commanders, and furnish'd with all manner of Necessaries.

That by the means of this Camp, the Communication with the Town is preserv'd, and the Gate of *Marseilles* kept open to the Marshal *De Tbesse*, to change and relieve the Garrison at all times, as he shall see occasion.

That over and above all this, the Marshal *De Tbesse* lies at a convenient distance about *Aix* with all his Cavalry, and 10000 Foot, waiting for Supplies and Reinforcements, which are hastning from all Parts to join him, and which in about 20 Days he expects to the number, including those he has within, of 40000 Men, with which he purposes on all occasions to Harass the Besiegers, cut off their Provisions, and streighten them as much as possible.

I think I have here given the Scheme of the Defendants Preparations, with all the Advantages they can desire, and if I had been to tell the Tale for them, I could not have gone farther.

I must acknowledge, that if these things are true, and the Particulars, especially as to Number of Men, be right—And the Men really do their Duty, the *Germans* may find a very warm piece of Work in the Attacking of this City, and more time may be spent in it, than we imagine.

I come now to the Enterprizers, the Duke of *Savoy* and Prince *Eugene*, and let us see if they have undertaken this Affair rashly or no; let us see if they have not proceeded as Men, that expected all Opposition the whole Power and Policy of *France* could make—Let us see if they have not provided for all Events, and proceeded as if they expected a Vigorous Resistance.

First we find, that foreseeing the *French* would be able to intercept their Convoys by their Flying Parties, and cut off their Provisions, by blocking up the Passes, and Ravaging the Country, they therefore obtain'd the attendance of the Confederate Fleet, who Commanding the Sea, furnish them with continual Supplies, and all *Italy* is by that means their inexhaustible Magazine.

From *Genoa*, they have all sorts of Stores, Ammunition, and Warlike Particulars, which are brought thither from the *Milaneze*; from *Final* vast quantities of Corn, and from *Leghorn* all sorts of Flesh, and the *Excetars* of the *Amunition de Bouche*.

The Communication between the Fleet and the Camp, they secure by a Line, drawn a League and a half in length, and Fortify'd with Redoubts, so that in short, the *French* may destroy the Country as they please; the Fleet is their Resource, and they can suffer no want, while they are Masters of the Sea.

Having thus their Provision secured, they are also furnish'd the same way with their Cannon and Ammunition, 400 pieces of Cannon, 70000 Bullets, 15000 Barrels of Gunpowder; 80 Mortars, and an infinite store of all sorts of Necessaries for a Siege; all this is furnish'd and brought

to the very Camp by the Fleet—All we hear they have any want of, is Forrage for their Horses, for which Reason we are told their Cavalry is left behind, and their Dragoons serve on Foot.

Furnish'd thus by Sea with every thing they can desire, and secured from the possibility of wanting any needful helps; we come next to their Army, and this we have an Account is no less than 40000 Men, all Veterans, Compos'd of Prussians, Hessians, and Palatines, in the Pay of England and Holland, at least 18000 Imperial Regiments, 12000 and 8000 of the Troops of Savoy; an Army, considering how compleat the Battalions, how well appointed, how Paid, how Cloath'd, and how flush'd with Victory; but above all, how animated by their Opinion of, and Love for their incomparable General; a Politick, a Daring, an Enterprizing and a Fortunate General; when these things are consider'd, they are to be reckon'd equal to twice that number.

But as these are but few in number, so if the Resistance of the Besiged, and the Fatigues of this Siege should give them more trouble, and be more Loss to them than they expect; they have taken particular care for Supplies, as by draining from all the Garrisons in Piedmont, Millain, and Mantua, from whence they suppose they shall yet draw 12000 Men. From Naples, where the Affairs there beginning to settle, they are suppos'd to be able to send 5000 Men by Sea to join the Army, and if they should be streightned, the Confederate Fleet may lend them 300 Marines: Thus if they should lose 20000 Men before the Town, which is hardly possible, yet the Army would still be compleatly as strong as it is now.

If these Men are supposed to do their Duty, and act like themselves; if they are but suppos'd to push forward, as the necessity of the Case calls for; it cannot be doubted, let the Opposition be what it will; let the French do all that Men can do, the Town must fall into their Hands, and nothing can hinder it but this one thing, viz. That they should hold out so long, as to let the Marshal De Thesse be strong enough to attack them in their Camp, a thing I be-

lieve he will consider of before he attempts.

The German Army now 40000, considering as before, the Circumstances of their Men, the Reputation of the General, the assistance of the Confederate Fleet, and the Troops they have coming to them; I do take to be equal to 60000 of the Enemy in the Field and in the Town, because they cannot Act together.

I do believe the French will make a Gallant Defence; but I believe the Imperialists will push them to all manner of Extremities; and I do believe, that if the Marshal De Thesse had been encamp'd under the very Cannon of Thoulon, with 35000 Men, the Duke of Savoy would have Attack'd them.

Here must be great Slaughter of Men, and tho' I am perswaded, nothing shall be wanting to carry it on with all possible Fury, yet I cannot but doubt it will be Vigorously Defended, and that to the last Extremity.

The Sum of the Matter is in short; Be not disappointed, Gentlemen, nor spread your Phlegmatick Suggestions about, tho' you should not find the Town carried all at a heat, and the Works taken every Day one; some are for taking the Town all in a hurry, and frightening the French out of it; they think 'tis enough for Prince Eugene to look upon it, and the French like the Lark before the Hawk will die for Fear, and cannot bear the sight of him; 'tis all a mistake, Gentlemen, they will look him in the Face if he had an Army of Devils, instead of Germans, and we find them run no faster than they are driven any where; if you will take strong Towns from them, you must expect to dispute every Inch; Fire and Lead is the Language of every step, and they must be Beaten, not Bullied out of their Fortifications.

Have Patience, then, Gentlemen, and give Time and Leisure for every thing, as Force is requir'd, Force will be apply'd; I dare say, we find the Germans do their Part, and notwithstanding all their Forces and Fortifications, the Town will be taken, and all the vast Booty in View will fall into our Hands—

Hands— They will be beaten from Post to Post, and from one strong Work to another, and the Town must be gain'd, but give time for it—It cannot be done in a Week, if it be done in a Month, it will be the best Months Work that the Confederates have done since the War.

All the good I know that comes of the precipitant Expectations of People in such Cases as this, is, that it fills the People with Consternation at the Disappointment, and exalts the Value and Terror of the Enemy in the Minds of the Multitude; it seems to me far more Rational, to allow in our Thoughts, due length to every Action, and give room for all the Probabilities, as well as Possibilities, and then things not only go on regularly, but Peoples Minds are not agitated with so many Up's and Down's, Hopes, and Fears.

The Success of the Allies has been full of Wonders, and greater things have been done than could rationally have been expected— But it has been impossible to run the length of the common Imagination—Upon every Victory the French King has been Ruin'd and Dethron'd, and his Country divided.

Indeed, Gentlemen, this Devil, like that in the Text, is not to be cast out but by Prayer and Fasting; FRANCE is to be reduc'd by nothing but by Blows—He has a strong Heart, and he will die hard— Be thankful that Blows will do it, and the Confederates have hands to Deal them; let things work, they go on well— But pray do not let us run so fast, as that no Management can follow us.

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